



City of Evansville, Wisconsin

Community Development Director

Community

A vibrant community with a sense of its history and a vision for its future, the City of Evansville is located in the northwestern corner of Rock County, close to both Dane and Green Counties. The city has grown rapidly, the fastest growing community in Rock County in each of the last three decades.

Evansville's convenient accessibility to the larger metropolitan areas of Madison and Janesville is a significant factor contributing to the city's growth. But when asked "Why Evansville," residents describe our strong sense of community, small town charm, exceptional public schools, clean and safe streets, a nice place to raise a family, and beautiful parks.



Evansville Community Partnership recognizes the importance of volunteers in making Evansville a better place for all of us

History

Settled in the 1840s, Evansville was originally referred to as "The Grove," a historical reference to a stand of trees just northwest of the city. The first to come to the Evansville area were mostly "Yankees," from Vermont, Ohio, and Western New York. Unlike many other growing communities on the western frontier, most of the first land buyers were settlers, not speculators.

The planned, not chance, pattern of growth provided an element of stability to the community in its early years. The emphasis on economic stability and social continuity that was established by Evansville's Yankee founders and their descendents is reflected in the residential and commercial streetscapes today.



Downtown holds to our appreciation of our history and small town charm

Evansville is a pioneer in the preservation of historic buildings with the Evansville Historic District being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Several individual properties have also been listed, and two additional, smaller residential historic districts were listed in 2011. Leonard-Leota Park, our community's signature park, was added to the National Register in fall 2012.

Today, Evansville has a reputation as an attractive "New England-like" small town that honors its past by preserving and protecting its historic buildings. The Wisconsin Historical Society has identified Evansville as home to "the finest collection of 1840s to 1915 architecture of any small town in Wisconsin."

Local Economy

Although most residents commute to jobs in the Madison and Janesville areas, Evansville maintains an economic base of manufacturing, local services and retail, and agriculture. Major employers include Evansville Community School District, Bluescope (Varco-Pruden) Buildings, Evansville Manor, Baker Manufacturing, Landmark Services Cooperative, and Stoughton Trailers. Stoughton Trailers re-opened its manufacturing facility in 2011.

Healthcare

Two medical clinics are located in Evansville. They are affiliated with Dean/St. Mary's Hospitals and Mercy Hospital. Evansville also has offices of specialty medical practitioners such as dentists and chiropractors. Seven hospitals within a half-hour, including Madison and Janesville, offer Evansville residents easy access to advanced specialty healthcare. Evansville Emergency Medical Service provides ambulance service for the city and surrounding rural areas.

Recreation

Enjoy the beauty of one of the finest public golf courses in southern Wisconsin. The Evansville Golf Club's 18 hole, par 72 golf course also offers a pro shop, restaurant, and driving range.

Evansville has over 66 acres of public parks offering picnicking, fishing, playgrounds, baseball and soccer fields, swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, skateboard park, and natural areas. Leonard-Leota Park includes Lake Leota which was dredged in 2008-2009 to restore the lake for recreational use and wildlife habitat.



Evansville celebrated the restoration of our beautiful Lake Leota in 2009

County parks nearby at Magnolia Bluff and Gibbs Lake provide scenic views, picnic and wildlife areas, cross-country ski/hiking trails, bridle paths for horseback riding, and a boat landing and fishing. The Evansville Wildlife Area is state managed land for public hunting and nature study.



We kicked off summer 2010 with a movie screen showing of the Discover Wisconsin TV feature on Evansville, festival tent, and fireworks

It's been said that Evansville loves a party, and our big one is the Fourth of July celebration. The full 4-5 days of festivities include live music every evening, festival tent, games, fireworks, parade, historic tours, and ice cream social.

Residents gather often for concerts, festivals, and celebrations: Chocolate Extravaganza, Chili Cookoff, Energy Fair, Civil War Living History, Memorial Day Rally in the Alley, Community Theatre, Oktoberfest, and Old Fashioned Christmas. The Farmers Market, Library, Grove Society, Masons, Lions, and other groups hold smaller activities throughout the year.

Creekside Place Community Center opened in spring 2011 and provides meeting space and programming for community organizations and private functions. It truly has become "The New Center of the Community."

School

Evansville Community School District has 1788 students, grades k-12. We take pride in our small class sizes, our focus on the child as an individual, our comprehensive approach to academics, fine arts, physical fitness and technology integration, and most importantly, a caring and supportive learning environment. Evansville High School has a 92% graduation rate and ACT composite score of 22.3; it was named a US Department of Education "Blue Ribbon School" in 2006.

Housing

Evansville continues to be the fastest growing community in Rock County with a 24% population increase in the last decade. The 2012 population is 5,051. Median value of single family homes is about \$155,000. The city values its high rate of owner-occupied housing, with single-family houses comprising about 75% of all housing units. Multi-family and rental opportunities are also available, as well as facilities catering to seniors.

Green Energy Leader

Evansville is a member/owner of WPPI Energy and has operated a municipal electric utility since the year 1901. Evansville is recognized as a green leader in Wisconsin and was selected as a 2009 Pilot Wisconsin Energy Independent Community. The community's agricultural tradition is the back-drop for a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. The annual spring energy fair is well-known regionally, and a number of renewable energy projects are located in the community.



100 kW wind turbine installed at wastewater treatment plant in 2010

Community Development

The City of Evansville operates under an elected City Council consisting of the mayor and eight alderpersons. An appointed city administrator is charged with day-to-day operations of the city. The Community Development Director will provide staff support to the Plan Commission and to the Economic Development Committee, each of which are comprised of city council members and public/business representatives. The Community Development Director is a newly created position – to consolidate work previously spread across several positions, to provide professional and technical advice, and to be the “point person” for economic development inquiries.

Evansville has completed over \$17 million in capital projects the last six years, some of which have been supported by \$4.8 million in state and federal grants. The city has four active tax increment financing (TIF) districts. The city supports additional growth and has conducted an economic development summit in 2008 and a series of facilitated meetings between city officials and the Chamber of Commerce in 2012.

Community Development Director: Desired Capabilities

Experienced Manager – Provides consistent advice regarding the city’s land use and zoning regulations; gives technical support during the city’s long-range and strategic planning; has first-hand experience with grant writing/administration and with development agreements; politically sensitive to local issues without being political.

Positive Leader – Supports a consistent message of Evansville as a business-friendly community with a strong entrepreneurial environment and exceptional community spirit; maintains a “big picture” view balancing and connecting development, infrastructure, and quality of life in the community.

Collaborative – Maintains positive relations with individual businesses, developers, and the community at large; collaborates with other city departments; participates in Thrive and other regional organizations.

Sound Judgment – Confident in making decisions; supports business development without falling “in love” with projects; handles interruptions, breaks in routine, and last minute changes in a timely manner.



Evansville is the fastest growing community in Rock County

Attitude of Improvement – Assumes responsibilities beyond the basic written job description; open to new ideas; seeks opportunities for continuing improvement of the city’s planning and operations.

Community Development Director: Professional Opportunities

Planning and Development – The city’s planning and development activities were previously handled by several different staff members. The city has deliberately consolidated these functions into a single, new position. The Director will have the opportunity to make his/her mark.

Smart Growth Plan – The city’s Smart Growth Plan was adopted in 2005 and has had several, subsequent updates. The Director will be instrumental in its ten-year review. A community-wide survey and other public input is expected.

Economic Development Strategy – The Director will assist the city’s Economic Development Committee in updating and implementing its Economic Development Strategy.



We celebrate our entrepreneurs

Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) – The Director will reach out to existing businesses, identify issues, develop strategies, and recommend technical/financial assistance for existing businesses.

Park & Recreation Plan – The Director will facilitate the Park Board’s five-year update of the city’s Parks & Recreation Plan.

Hiring Announcement

Community Development Director – City of Evansville, WI (www.ci.evansville.wi.gov), seeks a full-time Community Development Director. Position reports to Plan Commission and is responsible for the city's planning, zoning, and development activities, including: (1) maintain and enhance positive relationships in the community, (2) review and advise zoning applications, (3) implement business retention and expansion strategies, (4) prepare marketing program for business recruitment, (5) monitor development agreements for compliance, and (6) facilitate long-range/strategic planning of the city. This is an FLSA exempt and non-represented position.

Three years of professional experience; degree in business or public administration, land use planning, or related field; and excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required. Salary \$48,000 +/- dependent upon qualifications, plus benefits. Full job description and position profile available on city website. Applications kept confidential upon request; all finalists subject to public release. Send letter of interest, resume, and four professional references by November 12, 2012, to Dan Wietecha, City Administrator, PO Box 76, 31 S. Madison St., Evansville, WI 53536 or email to employment@ci.evansville.wi.gov.

Timeline

Position open until filled. Applications must be received by November 12, 2012. Candidate interviews are tentatively scheduled for late November. Employment starting date is targeted for January 2, 2013.

Additional information at www.ci.evansville.wi.gov